

AMP: AMHERST MASTER PLAN LIGHTING THE FUTURE



WANT: Voice of Amherst¹:

- *“Our good schools attract new residents; we need to renovate & update them.”*
- *“Continue environmental efforts such as Joe English Preserve and PMEC”*
- *“Living in Amherst is expensive, once you add in the cost of housing and the additional cost of services not provided by the municipality”*
- *“Services for seniors are insufficient in this town”*
- *“We need a community center, especially for the elderly and teens”*

HAVE: Existing Conditions²:

- Aging and overcrowded school buildings
- Limited services for seniors
- State-of-the-art and more than adequate public safety facilities (police, fire, EMS)
- Unique environmental and nature education center (PMEC)
- Recreation Department primarily focused on athletics for children
- Underutilized Baboosic Lake Beach and building
- Adequate water supply
- Limited cable TV coverage of community events

MAIN ISSUES: Opportunities & Challenges:

- Need for upgraded school buildings and additional space to alleviate overcrowding and meet program needs.
- Need for additional public meeting space
- Lack of services for the elderly
- Lack of activities for teenagers
- Limited recreational opportunities for seniors, adults, teens
- Lack of municipal sewer places constraints on development

¹ Resident input, based on various visioning exercises.

² Consultant documentation, based on review of previous studies, interviews, meetings, site visits.

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ISSUE: Aging and overcrowded school facilities



Nurse's Office:
Crowding in the nurse's office at Wilkin's School.



Storage: *Gym mats are being stored in a conference room because storage areas are being used as tutoring offices*



Hallways: *Because the stage of the Middle School cafeteria is being used all day as a classroom, cafeteria tables must be stored in hallways.*

MAJOR DECISION TO BE MADE: Next year there will be a total of 12 portable classrooms in use in Amherst schools and five academic team teachers will be sharing rooms with one another at the Middle School. In order to accommodate existing enrollments it will be necessary to consider constructing permanent additional space to the existing schools or building a new school with 15-20 classrooms. The School Master Plan Committee is in the process of making a proposal to the School Board and then to the community-at-large.

Please visit our website: <http://www.amherstnh.gov/MP/>